

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A ferromagnetic core having an imaginary longitudinal centerline and comprising:

a stack of individual flat laminations arranged parallel to the centerline, wherein two of the laminations bound the stack, each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal edges that are non-parallel to the centerline to endow zones at opposite sides of the core with a substantially frustoconical profile, and the zones are separated by flat outer faces of the two laminations bounding the stack.

17. (Original) A ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 16 in which some of the laminations comprise tabs projecting outward from their longitudinal edges beyond the frustoconical profile.

18. (Original) A ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 17 in which the opposite longitudinal edges of the two laminations bounding the stack comprise such tabs at their proximal ends.

19. (Original) A ferromagnetic core having an imaginary longitudinal centerline running from a proximal end to a distal end and comprising:
a stack of individual flat laminations arranged parallel to the centerline, wherein two of the laminations bound the stack, each lamination comprises opposite longitudinal edges that endow opposite sides of the core with zones that have a defined longitudinal profile and that are separated by flat outer faces of the two laminations bounding the stack, and

some of the laminations comprise tabs projecting outward from their longitudinal edges beyond the defined longitudinal profile.

20. (Original) A ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 19 in which the opposite longitudinal edges of the two laminations bounding the stack comprise such tabs at their proximal ends.

21. (Original) A ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 20 in which the opposite longitudinal edges of respective laminations with which the two laminations bounding the stack are respectively in contact comprise such tabs in contact with the respective tabs of the two laminations bounding the stack.

22. (Original) A ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 21 in which the defined longitudinal profile is described by an imaginary frustum that tapers radially inward toward the distal end.

23 - 32. (Cancelled)